

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 4, 2005, has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1-6 and 8-21 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claims 14-21 of the present application.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9 and 11 Rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Albesa (U.S. Patent No. 5,982,876). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that each of these claims recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited prior art.

Claim 1 recites a telephone comprising a storage unit for storing names to be called and corresponding telephone numbers, an operating unit, including a plurality of numeric keys that are each assigned different characters, for receiving key operations made by a user. In addition, the telephone includes a searching means for searching the storage unit, when a numeric key on the operating unit is pressed for at least a predetermined time, for names that include a character assigned to the pressed numeric key, and a display means for displaying a search result. The display means displays a predetermined number of names from the names found by the searching means, one of the displayed names being in a selection state, the name in the selection state being displayed differently to other names, and when a selection changing

operation is received by the operating unit, places another name that is currently being displayed into the selection state.

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-mentioned features of the Applicants' invention.

Albesa discloses a device and method for finding a desired entry in a collection of data is disclosed where the data collection is searched for first entries beginning with a selected character. After displaying the search results, an unwanted character of an entry included in the first entries is changed to a desired character, and the data collection is searched for second entries beginning with the desired character. Next, a portion of the first entries is replaced with the second entries, where this portion begins from the unwanted character. This process is repeated until the desired entry is displayed.

Applicants submit that Albesa fails to disclose or suggest each and every element recited in claim 1 of the present application. In particular, it is submitted that the method of finding an entry in a collection of data, and an electronic device to implement such method of Albesa is neither comparable nor analogous to the telephone as recited in the claimed invention. For instance, Albesa fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of "the display means displays a predetermined number of names from the names found by the searching means, one of the displayed names being in a selection state, the name in the selection state being displayed differently to other names, and when a selection changing operation is received by the operating unit, places another name that is currently being displayed into the selection state."

Albesa provides a data search that is performed by inputting a character string.

For example, Albesa facilitates user's data search by controlling a cursor position corresponding to a character input position, thereby reducing the number of key press required for forming a character string. Furthermore, Albesa triggers a search "when the user selects the option 'search list' in the telephone menu" (Albesa, column 3, lines 38-40). In order to narrow down the search result in Albesa, it is necessary to further press numeric keys to form a character string. In other words, Albesa requires the formation of a full character string by pressing a plurality of numeric keys for a plurality of times in order to perform a search. Accordingly, a single search result is displayed on a screen every time a character is input in Albesa.

In contrast, the present invention initiates a search by a single long press of a numeric key to which a plurality of characters are assigned. For example, names containing a character assigned to the key subjected to the long press are retrieved from a memory and displayed on a display screen. The display screen of the present invention is capable of displaying a predetermined number of names, with one name being in selection state, where the name in the selection state is displayed differently from the other names. In addition, the present invention can place another name into the selection state instead of the name currently in the selection state by selection changing operation of a user. Hence, the present invention can perform a series of processing (i.e., from initiating a search to displaying of the search result), by a single long press of a key. Accordingly, the present invention allows a user to perform a telephone book search by a simple operation, saving the user from actuating a plurality of keys.

It is submitted that the cited reference neither discloses nor suggests the features

of the present invention (i.e., a technology of searching names containing a character assigned to a numeric key when the numeric key has undergone a single long press.)

Furthermore, a user in Albesa has to input a next character after confirming the display appearing after character input. As provided by the example in Albesa to find the name "Marie Antoinette", Albesa shows that it is necessary to input four characters "M", "(space)", "n", and "t" (Albesa, column 2, line 65 through column 3, line 14).

On the other hand, the present invention provides a user to start a search by pressing a numeric key for a predetermined time and then selecting a desired name by operating either up/down keys or by operating the same key as having been pressed for starting the search. The present invention does not require the input of any addition characters or keys.

Still further, the cited reference of Albesa neither discloses nor suggests a structure in which a plurality of names from the names found by a search are displayed, with one of the displayed names being in a selection state, the name in the selection state being displayed differently from other names on display.

As mentioned above, Albesa displays a search result every time a character is input. Therefore, Albesa cannot display a plurality of names with one name being in a selection state and displayed differently from other names, which is provided in the present invention.

Therefore, Applicants submit that Albesa fails to disclose each and every element recited in claim 1 of the present application.

Moreover, to qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, a single prior art reference must teach, i.e., identically describe, each feature of a rejected claim. As

explained above, Albesa fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Albesa. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable.

As claims 2-4, 6, 8, 9 and 11 depend from claim 1, Applicants submit that each of these claims incorporates the patentable aspects therein, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claims, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 5, 10, 12 and 13 Rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a)

Claims 5, 10, 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albesa in view of Cushman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,125,287, hereinafter "Cushman"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection and submit that each of these claims recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited prior art.

Applicants submit that Cushman fails to cure the deficiencies that exist in Albesa as discussed above.

As claims 5, 10, 12 and 13 depend from claim 1, Applicants submit that each of these claims incorporates the patentable aspects therein, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claims, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1-6 and

8-13 recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited prior art. Applicants also submit that the subject matter is more than sufficient to render the claims non-obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, and therefore respectfully request that claims 1-6 and 8-13 be found allowable and that this application be passed to issue, along with allowed claims 14-21.

If for any reason, the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper has not been timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Petition for Extension of Time (One month)